



LIBRARY

Durham Rural District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

K. FALCONER, M.D., D.P.H.,

FOR THE

Year ended December 31st, 1937.

Durham :

PRINTED AT THE ADVERTISER PRINTING WORKS, SADLER STREET.

1938.



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2017 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b29173590>

Durham Rural District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

K. FALCONER, M.D., D.P.H.,

FOR THE

Year ended December 31st, 1937.

Durham :

PRINTED AT THE ADVERTISER PRINTING WORKS, SADLER STREET.

1938.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE DURHAM RURAL
DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my twelfth Annual Report on the sanitary circumstances, the sanitary administration and the vital statistics of the Rural District of Durham. The outstanding features during the year were the continued prevalence of the epidemic of diphtheria of a severe type, and the continuance, with increased activity, of the campaign for better housing conditions. The provision of adequate sewage disposal works to replace out-of-date plants is urgently needed in several localities and the delay in the installation of these after prolonged and continuous effort on the part of the Council is holding up schemes for conversions to the water carriage system in various localities of the District.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

K. FALCONER, M.D., D.P.H., Oxon.,

Medical Officer of Health.

1. GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (in acres)	34786
Population (resident) estimated for 1937	31520
Number of inhabited houses (1937) according to Rate Books	8658
Rateable value	£98859
Sum represented by a penny rate	£312

2. EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

Births	<div><div>Total.</div><div>M.</div><div>F.</div></div>		Birth Rate.	
Legitimate	503	240	263	
Illegitimate	16	5	11	
			16.93	
Still births	30	15	15	Rate per 1000 births 58
Deaths	402	223	179	Death Rate 13.12
Deaths from diseases and accidents of pregnancy and childbirth	<div><div>from sepsis</div><div>from other causes</div></div>	<div><div>3</div><div>3</div></div>	<div><div>Rate per 1000 total (live and still) births</div><div>10.93</div></div>	

Deaths of Infants under one year of age per 1,000 births :—
 Legitimate, 62 ; Illegitimate, 125 ; Total, 64.

Deaths from Measles (all ages)	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	4
Deaths from Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age)	3

TABLE I.

Birth-rates, Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Death-rates, and Case-rates for certain Infectious Diseases in the year 1937.

	England and Wales.	Durham Rural District.
	Rates per 1,000 Population.	
BIRTHS :—		
Live	14.9	16.93
Still	0.60	0.98
DEATHS :—		
All Causes	12.4	13.12
Typhoid and Paratyphoid fevers... ..	0.00	0.00
Smallpox	—	—
Measles	0.02	0.00
Scarlet fever	0.01	0.00
Whooping Cough	0.04	0.13
Diphtheria	0.07	0.55
Influenza	0.45	0.42
Violence	0.54	0.55
NOTIFICATIONS :—		
Smallpox	0.00	0.00
Scarlet fever	2.33	2.71
Diphtheria	1.49	11.16
Enteric fever	0.05	0.00
Erysipelas	0.37	0.29
Pneumonia	1.36	1.01
	Rates per 1,000 Live Births.	
Deaths under 1 year of age	58	64
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age	5.8	5.8
MATERNAL MORTALITY :—		
Puerperal Sepsis	0.97	5.78
Others	2.26	5.78
Total	3.23	11.56
	Rates per 1,000 Total Births (i.e., Live and Still).	
MATERNAL MORTALITY :—		
Puerperal Sepsis	0.94	5.47
Others	2.17	5.47
Total	3.11	10.93
NOTIFICATIONS :—		
Puerperal fever }	13.93	14.58
Puerperal pyrexia }		

VITAL STATISTICS.

The chief rates in the vital statistics of the Durham Rural District for the year 1937 were not altogether satisfactory. The birth-rate, 16.93 per 1,000 population, although a reduction from 17.63 in the preceding year, still compares favourably with the rate 14.9 for England and Wales as a whole. The death-rate, 13.12 per 1,000 living, which must be reckoned as 15.08 when corrected for purposes of comparison by multiplying by the areal comparability factor 1.15, is unsatisfactory in contrast to the death-rate of 12.4 for the whole Country, but it has to be pointed out that this rate of 13.12 is not based on the number of deaths which occurred in the District, but on the number of residents belonging to the District who died during the year including those dying outside the District. The number of deaths which actually occurred in the District was 344, giving a death rate of 11.22 as against the corresponding figure of 11.93 for the previous year.

There were 402 deaths, 223 being males and 179 females, of registered residents of the District. One hundred and forty deaths, being 35% of the total deaths, occurred in the age-group 65 years of age and upwards. Among the causes of death, the largest number was accredited to diseases of the heart and large blood vessels, 124 deaths being registered as due to this group of causes. Diseases of the respiratory system were responsible for 38 deaths against 56 in 1936. Cancer claimed 28 deaths, and there was an increase on the preceding year in the number of deaths from Influenza, 13 deaths from this cause indicating that this infection was more prevalent during the year; these deaths occurred in all parts of the District. Again as in the previous annual report, I have most unfortunately to report that the worst feature of the vital statistics figures was the unduly high number of deaths from diphtheria, there being 17 deaths as against 16 for the previous year.

There were 33 deaths of infants under one year of age, this giving an infant mortality rate of 64 per 1,000 births. This rate is the second lowest ever recorded in the District, but is still in excess of the rate for England and Wales as a whole.

TABLE II.—Chief Vital Statistics for the Years 1933 to 1937,
in Durham Rural District, expressed as rates per 1,000
population.

	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937
Birth-rate	17.01	16.86	16.31	17.63	16.93
Death-rate	12.18	11.89	11.94	12.22	13.12
Zymotic Death-rate ..	0.48	0.26	0.48	0.78	0.78
Infant Mortality (per 1,000 births) ..	81	76	77	61	64
Small-pox	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Scarlet Fever	0.06	0.06	0.03	Nil.	Nil.
Diphtheria	0.03	0.06	0.14	0.57	0.55
Enteric Fever	Nil.	Nil.	0.03	Nil.	Nil.
Measles	0.03	0.03	Nil.	0.04	Nil.
Whooping Cough ..	Nil.	Nil.	0.10	0.04	0.13
Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under 2 years) ..	0.35	0.10	0.17	0.07	0.09
Phthisis	0.58	0.77	0.35	0.39	0.82
Other Tubercular Diseases	0.26	0.19	0.21	0.11	0.03
Acute Respiratory Diseases	1.28	0.99	1.14	1.38	1.19
Influenza	0.29	0.32	0.14	0.11	0.42

TABLE III.—Births during the year ended 31st December, 1937,
in Durham Rural District (uncorrected).

	Legitimate.		Illegitimate.	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
Bearpark	17	18	—	—
Belmont	21	24	—	—
Broom	5	9	1	—
Brancepeth	—	2	—	—
Cassop-cum-Quarrington ..	27	21	—	—
Coxhoe	47	41	2	2
Framwellgate Moor	17	20	—	1
Hett	3	3	—	1
Kelloe & Garmondsway ...	1	—	—	—
Kimblesworth	5	13	—	—
Pittington	14	17	—	1
Shadforth	13	16	—	—
Sherburn	13	12	1	2
Sherburn House.....	—	1	—	—
Shincliffe	4	3	—	—
Sunderland Bridge.....	6	4	1	—
West Rainton.....	24	22	—	—
Whitwell House	2	1	—	—
Witton Gilbert	13	10	—	—
Totals	232	237	5	7

TABLE IV. DEATHS during the Year 1937, in DURHAM RURAL DISTRICT, classified according to CAUSE and AGE.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	All Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 2 years.	2 and under 5 years.	5 and under 15 years.	15 and under 25 years.	25 and under 45 years.	45 and under 65 years.	65 years and upwards.
All Causes	402	33	7	12	16	31	53	100	140
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Measles .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Scarlet Fever .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Whooping Cough	4	3	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria	17	..	..	5	10	2	..	..	..
Influenza	13	..	..	..	..	2	5	3	3
Encephalitis Lethargica	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
Cerebro Spinal Fever	2	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..
Tuberculosis of									
Respiratory System	25	..	..	1	..	8	7	9	..
Other Tuberculous Dis.	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
Syphilis	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
General Paralysis of the									
Insane : Tabes dorsalis .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cancer, Malignant Dis.	28	..	..	..	..	..	4	13	11
Diabetes	9	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	5
Cerebral Hæmorrhage, &c.	28	..	..	..	1	..	1	13	13
Heart Disease	79	1	..	1	2	1	2	28	44
Aneurysm .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other Circulatory Dis.	17	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	11
Bronchitis	12	3	1	1	..	..	..	1	6
Pneumonia (all forms)	22	2	1	4	..	3	4	3	5
Other Respiratory Dis.	4	..	..	..	1	..	1	2	..
Peptic Ulcer	3	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..
Diarrhoea (under 2 ys.)	3	1	2	..	..	..	..	..	..
Appendicitis	4	..	..	..	1	..	2	1	..
Cirrhosis of Liver	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
Other Diseases of the									
Liver	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Other Digestive Dis.	9	..	..	..	..	..	1	3	5
Acute and Chronic									
Nephritis	10	..	..	..	..	2	2	2	4
Puerperal Sepsis	3	..	..	..	..	1	2	..	..
Other Puerperal									
Causes	3	..	..	..	..	1	2	..	..
Congenital Debility,									
Premature Birth and									
Malformation, etc.	20	20	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Senility	25	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	21
Suicide	2	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..
Other Violence	15	1	..	..	..	3	5	3	3
Other defined Diseases	33	1	2	..	..	3	10	10	7
Causes ill-defined or									
unknown	6	..	..	..	..	2	..	3	1

TABLE V.—Infantile Mortality during the Year 1937 in
Durham Rural District.

Cause of Death.	Under 1 week.	1—2 weeks.	2—3 weeks.	3—4 weeks.	Total under 1 month.	1—3 months.	3—6 months.	6—9 months.	9—12 months.	Total Deaths under 1 year.
Measles .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Whooping Cough ..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	1	3
Bronchitis .. ..	..	2	..	..	2	..	1	..	..	3
Pneumonia (all forms) ..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	2
Convulsions .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diarrhœa, &c. .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1
Injury at Birth	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
Congenital Debility ..	4	1	..	..	5	..	..	..	..	5
Malformations	3	2	..	..	5	1	..	..	..	6
Premature Birth	7	1	..	..	8	1	..	..	..	9
Other Causes .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2	..	3
Totals	15	6	..	..	21	4	4	3	1	33

TABLE VI.—Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1937 and previous Years.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.			TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.		TRANSFERABLE DEATHS		NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.			
		Un-corrected Number.	Nett.		Number.	Rate.	of Non-residents registered in the District.	of Residents not registered in the District.	Under 1 year of age		At all ages.	
			Number.	Rate.					Num-ber.	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births.	Num-ber.	Rate.
1928	32,620	642	657	20·14	355	10·88	44	57	54	82	368	11·28
1929	32,630	646	642	19·71	383	11·74	43	58	58	90	398	12·19
1930	32,630	652	662	20·29	345	10·57	43	62	51	77	364	11·15
1931	31,600	561	584	18·48	379	11·93	46	55	46	78	388	12·28
1932	31,430	538	560	17·82	539	11·42	51	76	49	87	384	12·22
1933	31,280	504	532	17·01	360	11·51	42	63	43	81	381	12·18
1934	31,130	492	525	16·86	340	10·92	33	63	40	76	370	11·89
1935	28,070	445	470	16·31	326	11·61	48	66	36	77	344	11·94
1936	28,070	469	495	17·63	335	11·93	57	65	30	61	343	12·22
1937	31,520	481	519	16·93	344	11·22	36	94	33	64	402	13·12

THE PROVISION OF INSTITUTIONAL TREATMENT FOR THE AREA.

HOUGHALL ISOLATION HOSPITAL was working under full pressure during the whole course of year 1937 and the services of additional nurses had to be engaged throughout the year to cope with the strain placed on the Hospital on account of the Diphtheria epidemic. At certain periods the hospital accommodation was insufficient and patients were boarded out in neighbouring Hospitals. The number of patients admitted during the year, 448, is by far the largest number treated in your Hospital during the course of one year.

Admissions during 1937 :—

Scarlet Fever...	...	...	...	...	...	78
Admitted as Scarlet Fever but diagnosis not confirmed	...	...	...	...	...	5
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	302
Admitted as Diphtheria but diagnosis not confirmed	...	...	...	...	...	24
Diphtheria "Carriers"	...	...	...	...	...	38
Admitted as Cerebro-Spinal Fever but diagnosis not confirmed	...	...	...	...	...	1
Total						<u>448</u>

Admitted to neighbouring Hospitals during year 1937 :—

Fever Hospital			Diphtheria.	Scarlet Fever.
Chester-le-Street	...	...	15	—
Houghton	...	...	15	—
Sedgefield	...	...	13	3
Totals			<u>43</u>	<u>3</u>

STAFF of the PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT :—

K. Falconer, M.D., D.P.H., Medical Officer of Health.

W. Anderson, C.R.San.I., Sanitary Inspector for Western District.

S. Beever, C.R.San.I., Sanitary Inspector for Eastern District.

S. Dodds, Sanitary Surveyor.

F. Wilson, Junior Clerk.

These are all whole-time officers, the Sanitary Surveyor being also Highways Surveyor to the Council. Contributions by Exchequer grants are made to the salaries of the Medical Officer of Health and the Sanitary Inspectors. The Sanitary Inspectors possess the Diploma of the Royal Sanitary Institute and the Certificate for the Inspection of Meat and Other Foods.

Adoptive Acts in Force in the Area :—

Public Health Acts Amendments Act, 1907 :

Part II.—Sect.'s 15 to 18 inclusive ; sect.'s 20 to 23 inclusive.

Part III.—Sect.'s 34 to 38 inclusive ; sect.'s 43 to 46 inclusive and sect. 49.

Part IV.—sects. 52 to 67 inclusive.

Sect.'s 39 to 42 inclusive in all contributory places within the District with the exception of Whitwell and Kimblesworth.

Public Health Act, 1925 :

Sect.'s 13 to 16 inclusive, 20, 23, 25 to 33 inclusive, 37, 38 and 40 to 43 inclusive.

Operative from 1st April, 1926.

Public Health Act, 1875 :

Section 112.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Drainage and Sewerage.

AUTON STILE AND ALDIN GRANGE.—The new scheme of sewage disposal works has had the provisional approval of the Ministry of Health and tenders will in due course be invited for the carrying out of the works.

BARRAS HILL.—A new sewer has been laid to drain the new houses proposed to be erected.

BEARPARK SEWAGE WORKS.—New automatic distributors have been installed in the filter beds which are now operating more efficiently.

BOWBURN.—The Ministry of Health have sanctioned the amended scheme of sewage disposal works for this village and tenders are being invited for their construction.

CARRVILLE SEWAGE WORKS.—Structural repairs have been carried out at these works, including the renewal of filtering media in the contact beds, resulting in better effluent now being obtained.

CASSOP COLLIERY VILLAGE.—The construction of these works will shortly be put into operation.

CROXDALE COLLIERY VILLAGE, CROXDALE AND SUNDERLAND BRIDGE VILLAGE.—A scheme is in course of preparation for extensions to the present sewage disposal works at Sunderland Bridge to deal with the additional sewage from Croxdale Colliery Village.

CULVERTING COXHOE BECK.—The scheme for the covering in of a section of this beck has had the approval of the Ministry of Health and the works are now in progress.

FRAMWELLGATE MOOR SEWAGE WORKS.—The distributors in the filters have been renewed and the works generally repaired.

HETT.—The new scheme of sewerage and sewage disposal for this village is completed and operating satisfactorily.

KIMBLESWORTH COLLIERY VILLAGE.—Plans have been submitted to the Ministry of Health for the laying of a new outfall sewer therefrom to connect with the sewers of Chester-le-Street R.D.C. at whose existing works at Plawsworth Gate the sewage will be treated.

LITTLETOWN (HEATHER VIEW) SEWAGE WORKS.—The scheme for dealing with the sewage from the Eastern portion of this terrace has been approved by the Ministry of Health and the new sewage ejector station with contingent works are nearing completion.

SHINCLIFFE COLLIERY—VILLAGE SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL WORKS.—Tenders will shortly be invited for the construction of this scheme.

SHINCLIFFE VILLAGE.—A scheme of sewerage and sewage disposal works has been submitted to the Ministry of Health and is awaiting their sanction.

SHERBURN.—The branch sewer in Park Lane has been extended for the drainage of additional houses at the West side of the highway.

SHERBURN HOUSE SEWAGE WORKS.—Extensive repairs have been carried out at these works, including the renewal of automatic tippers in the filter beds, the renewal of filtering media, the construction of sludge beds and other work.

WEST RAINTON.—A new scheme of sewerage and sewage disposal works prepared for dealing with the sewage from Leamside, West Rainton and Rainton Gate is now under construction.

WITTON GILBERT.—A new scheme of sewage disposal works will shortly be under construction to replace the present obsolete works, to deal with the sewage from this village.

BUS SHELTERS.—Two public lavatories and bus shelters have been erected in the District.

WATER SUPPLY.—Water mains have been extended to the various housing schemes and the supplies of water to the parishes of Coxhoe and Cassop which are under the direct control of the Durham R.D.C. have been maintained during the year.

GENERALLY.—The sewers and various sewage disposal works in the district have been regularly attended to and the effluents from those works which are not scheduled for remodelling are considered satisfactory.

Scavenging.

Particulars of Scavenging by Contract :—

Parishes.	1935		1936		1937	
	Total Cost. £	Cost per house.	Total Cost. £	Cost per house.	Total Cost. £	Cost per house.
Bearpark	219	10/3	225	10/10	333	10/11
Belmont	332	8/10½	347	9/2	50	8/11½
Broom	468	11/2	502	11/4	—	—
Cassop-cum-Quarrington...	371	11/1	387/12	10/10½	443	10/11
Coxhoe	460	10/7	467	10/5	751	10/11
Hett	35	8/-	33	8/3	30	9/8
Pittington	299	10/9	308	10/5	—	—
Shadforth	182	10/3	134	10/8	20	12/10½
Shincliffe	87	6/4	87	6/4	95	6/9½
Sunderland Bridge ...	133	9/4	132	9/-	133	9/3
West Rainton	—	—	—	—	360/1/3	12/1
Kelloe	—	—	—	—	115	10/9
Totals	2586	10/-	2622/12	10/3	2330/1/3	10/3½

Under the review of the County Districts the Parish of Broom has been transferred to Brandon & Byshottles U.D.C. The Parishes of West Rainton, Kelloe, and the remainder of Coxhoe have been brought into this District.

The following Parishes are now scavenged by Direct Labour :— Belmont (6 months) ; Shadforth ; Sherburn ; Pittington ; Framwellgate Moor ; Kimblesworth ; and Witton Gilbert.

Scavenging by Direct Labour :—

Parish.	1935		1936		1937	
	Total Cost. £	Cost per house.	Total Cost. £	Cost per house.	Total Cost. £	Cost per house.
Sherburn, Sherburn House, Pittington, Belmont and part Shadforth	698	15/-	889/3/8	17/3	2035/6/2 (2491 houses)	16/4
Framwellgate Moor, Kim- blesworth and Witton Gilbert (1454)	565	12/10	578/10	12/-	975/15	13/5
Totals	1263	13/11	1467/13/8	14/9	3011/1/2	15/5

Eradication of Bed-Bugs.

Particulars of action taken for the eradication of Bed-bugs :—

- A.—(1) No. of Council Houses infested 4
 (2) No. of other houses infested 10
 (3) No. of Council houses disinfested 4
 (4) No. of other Houses disinfested 10
- B. Fumigating with “Furmex” and spraying walls, floors and furniture with “Zaldecyde” fluid.
- C. None.
- D. The Disinfestation was carried out by the Sanitary Inspectors.
- E. Disinfectant Soap and Fluid supplied.

TABLE VII.—Number of Privy Middens, Ash Closets and Water Closets in the Durham Rural District on December 31st, 1937.

Parish.	Privy Middens.	Ash Closets.	Water Closets.
Bearpark	8	450	150
Belmont	29	108	596
Cassop-cum-Quarrington ..	7	323	541
Coxhoe	7	655	832
Framwellgate Moor	—	95	650
Kelloe	2	211	1
Kimblesworth	—	268	31
Hett	10	64	—
Pittington	93	178	238
Shadforth	—	153	257
Sherburn	—	413	477
Shincliffe	20	144	116
Sunderland Bridge	9	173	84
Sherburn House & Whitwell	3	3	36
Brancepeth	7	21	36
West Rainton	—	503	123
Witton Gilbert	—	154	226
Moor House	—	14	1
TOTAL ...	195	3930	4395

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT :—

Particulars of house inspections during the year are given on page 18.

TABLE VIII—Summary of Notices served during the Year ended December 31st, 1937.

	In- formal Notices.	Statu- tory Notices.	Total.	Number complied with.
Dwelling Houses :—				
Defective and Insufficient Ash- bins	24	—	24	22
General Defects	161	637	798	—
Drains Blocked	44	1	45	43
Overcrowding	2	—	2	2
Dirty Houses	11	—	11	11
Defective Water-closets and Ash- closets	14	—	14	12
Insufficient Water Supply ...	5	—	5	5
Privy and Ashcloset Conversions	3	219	222	285
Defective Yards	2	—	2	2
No Slop Sinks	3	16	19	19
No Connection to Sewer... ..	—	24	24	—
Smokey Chimneys	1	—	1	1
Slaughter Houses :—				
Floors, walls, etc., dirty... ..	13	—	13	13
Lairages dirty	6	—	6	6
Offal not removed	14	—	14	14
Structural Defects	1	—	1	1
Dog kept in Slaughter House ...	2	—	2	2
Dairies and Cowsheds :—				
Manure not removed	9	—	9	9
Structural Defects	23	—	23	10
Cows' Quarters and Udders dirty	8	—	8	8
Floors, Walls, etc., dirty ...	15	—	15	14
Insufficient dairies	5	—	5	2
Fowls kept in Cowshed	1	—	1	1

TABLE VIII.—Continued.

	In- formal Notices.	Statu- tory Notices.	Total.	Number complied with.
Scavenging and Refuse Disposal :—				
Not sweeping up properly ...	2	—	2	2
No Cover on Scavenging Cart ...	6	—	6	6
House refuse not removed accord- ing to contract... ..	6	—	6	6
Splints and stone left lying in the streets	1	—	1	1
Depositing of refuse too near public Highways or river banks	4	—	4	4
Other Nuisances :—				
Defective stables, Pigstyes ...	—	2	2	2
Dirty Fish and Chip Shops ...	3	—	3	3
Sewage discharging into water- course	3	—	3	3
Dilapidated houses left standing	—	345	—	—
Animals improperly kept ...	2	—	2	1
Butcher offal tipped near High- way	1	—	1	1
Vans, sheds, etc.	2	6	8	4
Totals ...	397	1250	1302	515

HOUSING.*1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year :—*

(1) (a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under the Public Health and Housing Acts) ..	2436
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	3511
(2) (a)	Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head 1 above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	2208
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	3509
(3)	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for habitation	637
(4)	Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	1799

2. Remedy of defects during the year without the service of Formal Notices :—

	Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	187
--	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----

*3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—**A.—Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16, Housing Act, 1936 :*

(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring repairs	Nil
(2)	Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of Formal Notices :—	
(a)	By Owners	Nil
(b)	By Local Authority in default of Owners ..	Nil

B.—Proceedings under the Public Health Acts :

(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	219
(2)	Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after Formal Notices :—	
(a)	By Owners	19
*(b)	By Local Authority in default of Owners ..	285

C.—Proceedings under Section 11 and 13 of Housing Act, 1936 :

(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	388
*(2)	Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	184

* (Notices served during 1935-1936.)

D.—Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in which Closing Orders were made	Nil
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined the tenement or room having been rendered fit	Nil

E.—Action under the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of dwelling houses which on inspection were considered to be totally unfit for human habitation ..	637
(2) Number of dwelling houses, the defects of which were remedied in consequence of Informal Action by the Local Authority or their Officers	107
(3) The number of Representations made to the Local Authority with a view to :—	
(a) Serving of Notices requiring execution of work	Nil
(b) The making of Demolition or Closing Orders ..	637
(4) The number of Notices served requiring the execution of works	Nil
(5) The number of houses which were rendered fit after service of Formal Notices	Nil
(6) The number of Demolition Orders made	388
(7) The number of houses for which an undertaking was accepted under Section 19, Sub-section (2) of the Housing Act, 1930	249
(8) The number of houses demolished	184

F.—Action under the Housing (Rural Workers) Act, 1926 :—

Number of houses reconstructed under the above ..	104
---------------------------------------------------	-----

Housing Act, 1936—Part IV :—Overcrowding :—

(a) (1) Number of dwelling houses overcrowded at end of year ...	578
(2) No. of families dwelling therein	616
(3) No. of persons dwelling therein	3360
(b) No. of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year ...	5
(c) (1) No. of cases of overcrowding relieved during year ...	119
(2) No. of persons concerned in such cases	703

This has been another year of intense activity in dealing with housing conditions in the District. It is satisfactory that greater progress has been made in the erection of new houses to re-house the families displaced from condemned houses. For this purpose 454 houses were completed and occupied during the year, and a good start was made to build houses to deal with the overcrowded families, 119 houses for this purpose having been provided. Even at this rate of building, the rate of completing new houses is lagging behind the needs as is indicated in the subjoined tabular statement, and after April 1st, 1937, when the re-distribution of Boundaries of County districts took effect, the position in this respect was much aggravated. The loss to the District of certain Localities in which the standard of housing was high and which were practically unaffected in respect of the necessity of enforcing demolition orders, and the addition of other localities with housing conditions generally much below the standard aimed at, was a most unsatisfactory arrangement for the Durham Rural District and entailed a huge amount of extra work being thrown on your health officials, to such extent that in order to cope with the situation the services of two additional temporary sanitary inspectors had to be engaged towards the end of the year.

REVIEW OF PROGRESS IN PROVISION OF HOUSING ACCOMMODATION AT 31ST DECEMBER, 1937.

PARISH.	NUMBER OF HOUSES.									
	Completed.			Building in Progress.			Not Commenced.			Parish Total.
	Unfit Houses.	Over- crowding	Total.	Unfit Houses.	Over- crowding	Total.	Unfit Houses.	Over- crowding	Total.	
Bearpark ...	—	8	8	—	58	58	—	8	8	74
Belmont ...	66	—	66	—	—	—	10	15	25	91
Cassop-cum-Quarrington	70	—	70	7	37	44	73	16	89	203
Coxhoe ...	161	46	207	25	58	83	40	7	47	337
Framwellgate Moor	45	—	45	8	26	34	—	—	—	79
Hett ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	3	10	10
Kelloe* ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	52	—	52	52
Kimblesworth	—	22	22	—	1	1	—	—	—	23
Pittington...	82	22	104	4	6	10	12	—	12	126
Shadforth	118	—	118	86	6	92	102	17	119	329
Sherburn ...	90	21	111	60	18	78	102	—	102	291
Sherburn House ...	20	—	20	—	—	—	—	—	—	20
Shincliffe ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	8	18	18
Sunderland Bridge	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	10	14	14
West Rainton	—	—	—	—	—	—	75	10	85	35
Witton Gilbert	†9	—	9	—	—	—	23	13	36	45
Totals ...	661	119	780	190	210	400	510	107	617	1797

* Houses condemned by Easington R.D.C.

† Houses provided by Chester-le-Street R.D.C.

In addition to foregoing table after Official Representations by the Medical Officer of Health :—

Undertakings given to make houses fit	...	...	...	134
Schemes put forward under Housing (Rural Workers) Act, 1926	...	...	...	230

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply.

There are 133 Milk Producers registered in the District and 13 premises registered for the sale of Milk by retail only. There are also 14 persons registered to sell milk by retail in the District whose premises are situated outside the Rural Area.

During the year strict supervision was maintained over the dairy farms and dairies in the District. For this purpose 191 inspections were made and 61 informal notices were served on Milk Producers for infringements of the Milk and Dairies Order of 1926.

The following report for the year ending December 31st, 1937, was received from the County Veterinary Officer :—

“ The General condition of the cows this winter does not appear to be so good as in previous years. This is due to some extent to the higher prices of feeding stuffs (cakes, etc.), which are being fed in smaller quantities, the effect of this being most marked where the hay is of poor quality.

The hygiene conditions are fairly good although more attention should be given to the provision of suitable dairy premises for the handling of milk and sterilisation of equipment. A number of farmers are still rather slack in their standard of cleanliness and more frequent grooming of cows is indicated.”

The following repairs and alterations to cowsheds and dairies have been carried out during the year, 1937 :—

REPAIRS AND ALTERATIONS CARRIED OUT TO DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31ST, 1937.

Pancake Hall, Belmont	...	...	Stand laid with concrete and new concrete partitions.
High Wooley Farm, Crook	...	...	New concrete floor laid, more light and ventilation provided.
Porch House Farm, Hett...	...	...	New cowshed erected.
High Grange Farm, Hett...	...	...	New Concrete stall partitions, new roof, stall concreted to head, more light and ventilation.
Durham Moor Farm	...	...	New cowshed erected.
Newton Grange Farm, Pity Me	...	...	Cowshed reconstructed.

Finchale Abbey Farm	...	...	Cowshed reconstructed, new dairy and sterilizing room.
Sunderland Bridge Farm	...	...	More light and ventilation provided.
Leamside House Farm	...	...	New stall partitions, walls plastered, more light and ventilation.
Field House, West Rainton	...	...	Cowshed reconstructed, new dairy and sterilizing room.
Hall Farm, Bearpark	...	...	Cowshed reconstructed.

MEAT INSPECTIONS.

Number of Inspections :—

Slaughter houses	...	...	...	...	...	586
Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	...	...	640
Meat Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	626

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattleex- cluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed	1400	450	45	3100	950
Number Inspected	830	369	31	2830	774
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT T.B. :—					
(1) Whole Carcases condemned	—	—	—	—	—
(2) Carcases of which some part or Organ was condemned	1	—	—	2	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than T.B.	.12%				
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY :—					
(1) Whole Carcases condemned	1	—	1	—	—
(2) Carcases of which some part or Organ was condemned	3	9	1	4	3
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	.48%	.24%	6.5%		

TABLE IX.—Cases of Infectious Disease Notified during the Year 1937, in Durham Rural District.

Notifiable Diseases.	Number of Cases Notified.													Total Cases Notified in each Locality.											Total Cases removed to Hospital	Total Deaths						
	At all Ages	At Ages—Years.												Bearpark.	Belmont.	Broom.	Brancepeth.	Cassop-cum-Quarrington.	Coxhoe.	Framwellgate Moor.	Hetton.	Kimblesworth.	Pittington.	Shadforth.			Sherburn.	Shincliffe.	Sunderland Bridge.	Kelloe.	West Rainton.	Witton Gilbert.
		Under 1 year.	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 and upwards																			
Small pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever...	83	...	3	4	2	7	32	22	6	4	3	...	...	5	4	1	...	6	6	...	4	7	15	13	1	2	1	2	1	81	...
Diphtheria	342	1	...	6	10	26	122	113	45	18	1	...	...	3	10	1	1	121	12	3	1	3	90	23	5	1	13	2	2	342	17
Enteric Fever..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia	31	5	..	2	2	2	3	1	1	3	4	7	1	2	3	...	...	10	1	1	2	3	3	...	...	...	...	4	2	...	22
Encephalitis Leth.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Erysipelas	9	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	6	1	...	2	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	1	...	...	...	...
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	13	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	4	3	2	2	...	1	1	1	2	1	...	...	1	...	...	2	2	...	1	...	2	...	25
Other forms of Tuberculosis	18	...	1	...	1	...	4	6	2	4	...	...	...	5	2	...	3	3	...	1	...	...	...	2	2	..	1	...	1	...	1
Puerperal Fever	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...
Puerperal Pyrexia	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	1	...	1	...	3
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cerebro Spinal Fever	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	2

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The number of cases of scarlet fever occurring during the year 1937 again showed an appreciable decrease, 83 cases being notified compared with 147 in the previous year. These cases were found in all parts of the District and the incidence was not particularly heavy in any locality. The infection as in preceding years continued to be of a mild clinical type and no deaths resulted from this cause. Scarlet fever antitoxin was administered only in selected cases where the signs and symptoms were more severe than the average. No advantage, it is considered, is derived from serum treatment in mild cases.

The amount of diphtheria during the year 1937 was alarming, especially in the villages of East Hetton, Ludworth and Quarrington Hill, where the infection reached practically pandemic form among children. In 1937, 342 cases of diphtheria occurred against 162 cases in the previous year. This large increase in the incidence and gravity of the infection caused much anxiety. Generally, the disease was of a serious type and very many cases were suffering from very marked toxæmia on admission to hospital, when response to the most heroic measures of treatment was uncertain. Seventeen deaths resulted during the year. It cannot be too strongly emphasised that treatment must be instituted at the earliest possible moment and delay in summoning medical attention in any case of diphtheria, jeopardises seriously the patient's chances of recovery. It was found that convalescence was generally slow and liable to be interrupted by complications.

During the year the campaign for the artificial immunisation of children under 15 years of age against diphtheria was actively pursued and 1827 children were artificially immunised by Alum Precipitated Toxoid, making a total of 2304 immunisations performed since the inception of the scheme in April, 1936. These figures are frankly disappointing during a time when diphtheria infection causing death and untold damages to the child population was rampant in the District. For a community to receive the benefits from an immunisation scheme, a large proportion of the young population should be immunised every year, even in non-epidemic times, but recent experience does not encourage the prospect of much success in overcoming the apparent apathy and indifference exhibited by the average parents. Immunisation is a common-sense precaution for parents to take to safe-guard their children and no amount of activity on the part of health officials can compensate for their remissness in this direction.

In an endeavour to limit the spread of the diphtheria infection a practice was made of swabbing the throats of immediate contacts in a search for "carriers," 948 swabs being taken for this purpose. Thirty-nine "carriers," who could not be satisfactorily isolated at home, were admitted to Hospital and received appropriate treatment with satisfactory results.

All Doctors practising in the District are provided with free supplies of Diphtheria antitoxin and alum precipitated toxoid.

Whooping Cough and influenza were common in different parts of the District throughout most part of the year, and 4 deaths of children resulted from whooping cough and 13 deaths from influenza.

Bacteriological Examinations.

	Positive.	Negative.	Inconclusive.
Tuberculosis	9	56	—
Diphtheria	87	910	39
Enteric (including Paratyphoid) ...	—	2	—

No use has been made of Schick testing in Diphtheria or Dick testing in Searlet Fever. During the year 518 houses were disinfected by the Sanitary Inspeetors, formalin fumigation being the method usually adopted.

TUBERCULOSIS.

TABLE X.—New Cases and Mortality during the Year 1937 in Durham Rural District.

Age Periods.			New Cases.				Deaths.			
			Pulmonary.		Non-pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-pulmonary.	
			M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	1	..	..
5	..	..	..	..	3	2	..	..	..	..
10	..	..	2	..	2	2	..	..	..	..
15	..	..	1	3	2	1	1	2	1	..
20	..	..	2	..	..	1	3	2	..	..
25	..	..	1	..	..	2	2	3	..	..
35	..	..	1	1	1	..	2	..	..	..
45	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	4	..	..
55	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	1	..	..
65 and upwards	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals	..	..	8	5	9	9	12	13	1	0

In 13 out of these 26 deaths from Tuberculosis, no notification of Tuberculosis had been received and communications were addressed to the doctors who had been in attendance, pointing out the importance of immediate notification and indicating the penalty for failure to notify.

No necessity arose during the year to take any action under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, relating to tubereulosis employees in the milk trade, nor was it found necessary to advise the Council to apply for an order, under Section 62 of the Public Health Act, 1925, for compulsory removal to hospital in any instance.

FORM 572. 1.—Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces, 1937.

Premises. (1)	Number of		
	Inspec- tions. (2)	Written Notices. (3)	Occupiers prosecu- ted. (4)
FACTORIES ... (Including Factory Laundries)	10	1	0
WORKSHOPS (Including Workshop Laundries)	7	0	0
WORKPLACES (Other than Outworkers' premises)	7	0	0
TOTAL	24	1	0

2.—Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Particulars. (1)	Number of Defects.			Number of offences in respect to which Prosecu- tions were instituted. (5)
	Found. (2)	Remedied. (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector. (4)	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts:—</i>				
Want of cleanliness	1	1	...	...
Want of ventilation ... ..	...	...	...	...
Overcrowding ... ..	...	...	...	...
Want of drainage of floors ...	...	...	...	...
Other nuisances ... ..	...	...	...	...
Sanitary accommodation { insufficient ...	1	...	...	...
unsuitable or				
defective ...	...	...	...	...
not separate for				
sexes... ..	...	...	...	...
<i>Offences under the Factory and Work- shop Acts:—</i>				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse (s. 101) ... ..	...	...	...	...
Other offences ... ..	...	...	...	...
(Excluding offences relating to outwork and offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Work- shops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921).				
Total	2	1	...	...



